



News Release

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Utah Department of Health Awards \$1.5 Million in Grants for Medically Underserved Populations

(Salt Lake City, UT) – The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) has awarded local health professionals and agencies \$1.5 million in grants to provide primary health care to medically underserved individuals not eligible for CHIP, Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance or the Primary Care Network.

The UDOH awarded \$959,200 in primary health care grants to 30 local health agencies and another \$535,690 in health care workforce assistance grants to health care professionals using a competitive process.

“The main purpose of these grant programs is to improve the health of medically underserved Utahns,” says Dr. Marc Babitz, Director, Division of Health Systems Improvement, UDOH. “The programs do this by increasing the number of health care professionals practicing in underserved areas of the state and by making primary care services more accessible to the working poor, children, elderly, Native Americans, migrant and seasonal farm-workers, individuals with chronic diseases, the homeless, and single heads of household.”

The Primary Care Grants Program received 37 grant applications and funded 30 projects. Nineteen of the approved projects are rural – several of which encompass more than one county. The grantees included nine community health centers (5 rural, 4 urban), two urban homeless programs, one rural project targeting Native Americans, two rural projects specifically targeting diabetics, seven projects providing dental services in 16 counties (4 rural, 3 urban) and two urban project providing mental health services.

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Some of the primary care services supported are diabetes control, prevention services, women's health services, chronic illness support, dental services, well-baby checkups, adult immunizations, mental health services and acute care services.

Thirty-seven health care professionals applied to the health care workforce assistance program this year with 28 grants awarded. Health care professionals must work at least two years at an approved site serving Utah's medically underserved populations.

“The Utah Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program has been an effective tool to increase the number of health care professionals serving Utah's medically underserved populations since it's inception in 1990,” said Babitz.

Health care professionals eligible to apply to the program include dentists, physicians, mid-level practitioners, nurses, and mental health therapists. Employment sites that serve a large proportion of medically underserved populations and have a hard time recruiting and/or retaining health care professionals are eligible for the program. Employment sites must accept Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP, and PCN in order to be considered eligible for the program.

The financial assistance program was created in 2002 by combining the Rural Physicians and Physician Assistants Grant and Scholarship Program, Urban Special Population Health Care Provider Financial Assistance Program and the Nurse Education Financial Assistance Program. The combined programs have awarded 265 health care professional grants and 86 health care professional scholarships using \$7.2 million in state general funds for a total of 964 years of service to Utah medically underserved areas/populations.

For information about UDOH's primary care and health care workforce financial assistance grants, contact Don Beckwith at (801) 538-6818.

Note to media: see attached pages for a list of primary care grantees.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.

Utah Department of Health

Primary Care Grants FY 05-06

The following is a list of successful applicants that expect to serve over 13,500 individuals with approximately 30,200 patient encounters:

- **Birthcare Healthcare, University of Utah, College of Nursing, \$32,400.00** serving 530 women in Salt Lake county.
- **Budge Clinic, Pediatric Unit, IHC Physician Services, \$10,800.00** serving 360 hispanic children in Cache county.
- **Carbon Medical Services Association, \$45,720.00** serving 223 individuals in Carbon and Emery counties.
- **Caring Foundation for Children-Dental Services, \$12,000.00** serving 31 children in Box Elder, Cache, Carbon, Davis, Salt Lake, Utah, Washington, and Weber counties.
- **Central Utah Public Health Department-Women's Health, \$27,000.00** serving 120 women in Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne counties.
- **Centro de la Familia de Utah-Dental Services, \$18,000.00** serving 90 hispanic children in Box Elder, Cache, Davis, Sanpete, Utah, and Weber counties.
- **Community Health Centers, Inc., \$110,160.00** serving 300 individuals in Salt Lake county.
- **Community Partnered Mobile Dental Clinic, Utah Department of Health, \$45,160.00** serving 216 individuals in Box Elder, Carbon, Duchesne, Juab, Utah, Wasatch, and Washington counties.
- **Dental House Call Program, \$12,000.00** serving 68 home bound individuals in Duchesne, Emery, Iron, and Uintah counties.
- **Diabetes Control Project, Inc., Utah Navajo Health System, Inc., \$36,720.00** serving 362 Native Americans in San Juan county.
- **Enterprise Valley Medical Clinic, \$36,000.00** serving 247 individuals in Iron and Washington counties.
- **Magna Center for Family Medicine Foundation, \$12,000.00** serving 850 individuals in Salt Lake county.
- **Midtown Community Health Center-Dental Services, \$19,200.00** serving 217 individuals in Morgan and Weber counties.
- **Midtown Community Health Center-Mental Health, \$43,080.00** serving 1,500 individuals in Morgan and Weber counties.
- **Midvale Family Health Clinic, \$7,440.00** serving 75 individuals in Salt Lake county.
- **Mountainlands Community Health Center, \$64,320.00** serving 720 individuals in Utah county.

- **People's Health Clinic, \$18,000.00** serving 1,272 individuals in Summit county.
- **Salt Lake Donated Dental Services, \$22,500.00** serving 242 homeless in Salt Lake county.
- **Skyline Community Health, Inc., dba Direct, M.D., \$12,000.00** serving 300 individuals in Sanpete county.
- **Southwest Utah Community Health Center, \$18,000.00** serving 84 individuals in Washington county.
- **Southwest Utah Public Health Department-Women's Health, \$56,250.00** serving 250 women in Beaver, Iron, Garfield, Kane, and Washington counties
- **Utah Association of Local Health Departments-Women's Health, \$49,210.00** serving 1,275 women in Box Elder, Cache, Rich, Wasatch, and Weber counties.
- **Volunteer Care Clinic, \$24,000.00** serving 2,861 in Utah county.
- **Wasatch Homeless Health Care Program, \$132,240.00** serving 820 homeless in Salt Lake county.
- **Wasatch Mental Health-Wellness Recovery Clinic, \$50,000.00** serving 100 individuals in Utah county.
- **Wayne Community Health Center-Dental Services, \$ 45,000.00** serving 260 individuals in Wayne county.